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O 091746Z APR 94

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUANDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE

NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2689

JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7021

AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

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EMBASSIES PLS PASS CONSULS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINS, AEMR, CASC, PREL

SUBJECT: TFRW01: SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1030 EDT,

4/09/94

1. (U) ISLAMABAD PLEASE PASS TO DEPSEC TALBOTT.

2. (LOU) AT 11-12 KM OUT THE FIRST CONVOY HIT A

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GENDARME CHECKPOINT AT A BRIDGE. VEHICLES WERE SEARCHED AND EACH PASSENGER HAD TO PAY 1000 RWANDAN FRANCS (ABOUT 8 DOLLARS). THEY WERE ALLOWED TO PASS.

3. (LOU) EMBASSY REPORTS AT 0748 EDT THAT THE SECOND CONVOY OF 35 PEOPLE LEFT. THE THIRD CONVOY LEFT AT 0750 EDT WITH 20 PEOPLE. BOTH WERE PROTECTED BY TWO RWANDAN GENDARMES. UNLIKE THE FIRST CONVOY, THE SECOND CONVOY DID NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEM AT THE BRIDGE. THE THIRD CONVOY WAS ASKED IF THEY HAD ANY BELGIANS. THEY SAID NO AND WERE ALLOWED TO PASS.

4. (LOU) WHEN THE FIRST TWO CONVOYS REACHED GITARAMA (ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS OUTSIDE KIGALI), THEIR GENDARME PROTECTION WAS DROPPED AND RETURNED TO KIGALI WITH THE EMBASSY COMMUNICATOR. REPORTS INDICATE THE ROAD IS

CLEAR BEYOND GITARAMA. THE FOUR GENDARMES HAVE BEEN PAID BY THE EMBASSY, ARE PROTECTING THE COMMUNICATOR ON HIS RETURN, AND ARE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE ASSISTANCE IN KIGALI.

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5. (LOU) RPF FORCES HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY SLOWED THEIR PACE TOWARD KIGALI NOW THAT THEY KNOW THAT FRENCH TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED, ACCORDING TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM SOURCES.

6. (C) OUR EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS RECEIVED THE FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT FOR AIRLIFT OF THE BELGIAN REINFORCED BATTALION AND USE OF THE AIRCRAFT TO BACKLIFT EXPATRIATE EVACUEES. THE BELGIANS ARE ALSO REQUESTING HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR CIVILIAN EXPATRIATE EVACUATION, IF NEEDED.

7. (C) 90 MARINES HAVE LANDED IN BUJUMBURA, AND 190 MORE WILL LAND AT 1500Z, ALONG WITH THREE HELICOPTERS.

8. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CHRISTOPHER

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